



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

March 4, 2015

South Gate Man Convicted of Fatal Stabbing, Assaults

A 21-year-old man was found guilty today of fatally stabbing his teenage girlfriend and assaulting a group of individuals who tried to come to her aid, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Abraham Lopez (dob 7/12/93) of South Gate was convicted by a jury of 11 counts: one count of first-degree murder, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, three counts of assault upon a peace officer, two counts of weapons on school grounds, two counts of resisting executive officer and one count of false imprisonment in case VA121880.

Judge Raul A. Sahagun scheduled sentencing for April 13 in Department D of the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Norwalk. Lopez faces a possible maximum sentence of 42 years to life in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Brandon K. Wong and Don Syn, who co-prosecuted the case, said at the time of the crime, victim Cindi Santana, 17, had just ended a three-year relationship with Lopez.

On Sept. 30, 2011, Lopez went to Santana's high school and forced her to speak with him, prosecutors said. During the confrontation, Santana flagged down the school dean, at which point Lopez put the victim into a choke hold, prosecutors added.

Other high school students witnessed what was occurring, and with the assistance of the dean, struggled with Lopez to release Santana. Prosecutors said Lopez then pulled out a knife, slashed the dean, stabbed another student and then finally stabbed Santana twice in the back.

Following the stabbing, Lopez was subdued by school police and faculty staff, and subsequently arrested.

After the assault, Santana was taken to the hospital for medical treatment, but ultimately succumbed to her injuries.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

#

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.